THE REAL ENEMY

'Amir bin Sa'd ﷺ reported on the authority of his father that one day Allah's Messenger ﷺ came from a high land.

He passed by the mosque of Banu Mu'awi-ya, went in and observed two rak'ahs there and we also observed prayer along with him and he made a long supplication to his Lord. He then came to us and said:

I asked my Rabb three things and He has granted me two but has withheld one.

I begged my Rabb that my Ummah should not be destroyed because of famine and He granted me this. And I begged my Rabb that my Ummah should not be destroyed by drowning (by deluge i.e. great flood) and He granted me this.

And I begged my Rabb that there should be no bloodshed among the people of my Ummah, but He did not grant it.

[SAHIH MUSLIM]

It was narrated from Thawban ﷺ, the freed slave of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

"The earth was brought together for me so that I could see the east and the west, and I was given two treasures, the yellow (or the red) and the white (meaning gold and silver). And it was said to me: 'Your dominion will extend as far as has been shown to you.' I asked Allah for three things: That my ummah would not be overwhelmed by famine that would destroy them all, and that they would not be rent by schism and fight one another, but it was said to me: 'When I (Allah) issue My decree it cannot be revoked. But I will never cause your nation to be overwhelmed by famine that would destroy them all, and I will not gather their enemies against them (and destroy them) until they annihilate one another and kill one another.' Once they start to fight amongst themselves, that will continue until the Day of Resurrection. What I fear most for my ummah is misguiding leaders. Some tribes among my ummah will worship idols and some tribes among my ummah will join the idolaters. Before the Hour comes there will be nearly thirty Dajjals (great liars), each of them claiming to be a Prophet. But a group among my ummah will continue to adhere to the truth and be victorious, and those who oppose them will not harm them, until the command of Allah comes to pass."

[SUNAN IBN MAJAH]

It was narrated that Mu'adh bin Jabal ﷺ said:
"The Messenger of Allah ﷺ prayed one day and made the prayer lengthy. When he finished we said (or they said): 'O Messenger of Allah, you made the prayer lengthy today.' He ﷺ said: 'I offered a prayer of hope and fear. I asked Allah for three things for my ummah and He granted me two and refused one. I asked Him not to let my ummah be destroyed by enemies from outside, and He granted me that. And I asked Him not to let them be destroyed by drowning, and He granted me that. And I asked Him not to let them be destroyed by fighting among themselves, but He refused that.'"

[Sunan Ibn Majah]

The real enemy of the Ummah is the Enemy Within; Al Munafiqun. People who claim to be Muslims in order to destroy the Muslims and the Muslim Ummah from within are the most dangerous enemy.

Allah ﷻ says about them,

"They are the enemies, so beware of them. May Allah curse them! How are they denying (or deviating from) the Right Path?"

{Al-Munafiqun 63:4}

Whatever the strength or power of the kuffar may be or whatever they may plot, they can never defeat the Muslim ummah if the munafiqun don't help them against the Muslim ummah.

That is why we are in a very dangerous situation unless we deal with that enemy within. We see them, how they sell out their own din and honour for a very small price. Allah ﷻ informs us about the Munafiqun, how we could sometimes be impressed by their looks, status and their smart dress, that they will speak about Islam but mention all kufr and shirk in their speech.

Allah ﷻ says,

"And when you look at them, their bodies please you; and when they speak, you listen to their words. They are as blocks of wood propped up. They think that every cry is against them. They are the enemies, so beware of them. May Allah curse them! How are they denying (or deviating from) the Right Path. " {Al-Munafiqun 63:4}

They are the enemy, those who you will be impressed by them, they will speak in a very articulate manner and try to convince you to commit kufr, and they will try to convince you to obey the Tawaghit, to vote for man-made law, to participate in democracy or other kufr systems.

Allah warned us that they are the enemy and we must be careful of them. Verily, the one who Allah guides, nobody can misguide. Allah described them in many ayat that, "They are the real enemy."

Allah ﷻ says,

"They seek to deceive Allah and the believers, yet they only deceive themselves, but they fail to perceive it." {Surah Baqarah 2:9}

The question arises, how can we deal with them? Especially when they come out with Islam in their exterior. As Ahl Al-Sunnah wal Jama'ah judge everyone only by what is apparent. The apparent actions of the Munafiqun are Islam; that is why they are a very difficult enemy to face.

We know how they are the lowest in the hellfire but how can we recognise them? How can we deal with them? We know that the great destruction of the Muslims in the past was always at the hands of the Munafiqun, they are the most destructive people in the Islamic state, even in the time of Muhammad ﷺ and in the time of Abu Bakr As Siddiq ﷺ.

We see how much suffering and damage they caused this ummah, we see in the time of Muhammad ﷺ that the Munafiqun were the most active to cause destruction to the Muslims, they even built a Masjid to harm and divide the Muslims; just like today, we see all the 'mosques' become a post to spy on the Muslims, to divide them, to promote the kufr and shirk and to reject the Jihad and Shari'ah. Even these so-called mosques, by the will of the kufr law that they uphold, spy on the Muslims and report anyone whom they consider 'suspicious' to the kuffar.

In the time of Abu Bakr ﷺ, despite the very short time in power as the Khalifah, his rule was consumed by the Munafiqun who came out to rebel against the Khalifah. All of a sudden, they did not want to pay the Zakat and Abu Bakr dealt with them severely and left them no room even to breathe.

"By Allah, I will fight anyone who differentiates between salah and zakat"

He fought them all over the Arabian Peninsula, he took their lives and wealth and he killed hundreds from them and took their property and families as booty until they surrendered and until they declared that the dead from among them all died in Jahiliyyah and are in the hellfire.

In the time of Muhammad ﷺ, the Munafiqun used to be worried and hide all the time; that is because Allah ﷻ used to reveal ayat and expose them. In Surah Tawbah, Allah ﷻ says,

"The hypocrites fear lest a Surah (chapter of the Quran) should be revealed about them, showing them what is in their hearts. Say: '(Go ahead and) mock! But certainly Allah will bring to light all that you fear.'" {At Tawbah 9:64}

That is why they came out in the time of Abu Bakr; they came out knowing that there will be no revelation anymore, so they became brave in their kufr.

In the time of 'Umar Al Faruq, the Munafiqun tried again to destroy the Muslims from within. One man called Abu Lu'lu'a and his people came to Umar and claimed that he wanted to embrace Islam.

Abu lu'lu'a (really a fire-worshipper) and two other men claimed to embrace Islam with 'Umar ibn Khattab and then they betrayed him and stabbed him in the back while he was praying Salat ul Fajr.

The Munafiqun are the enemy within, they failed against the Messenger ﷺ, they tried against Abu Bakr ؓ and failed, they killed 'Umar ibn Khattab ؓ and in the time of 'Uthman ؓ they came again.

They moved everywhere in a new organised way, they managed to maintain a level of organisation that they never managed before. They followed 'Abdullah ibn Saba' and Ibn Sawda', they started to make their fitnah and without any shame or fear they publicly declared that 'Uthman was doing wrong, they spread the fabrications and lies. The people at that time just like today listened to them; that is because they do not know that they are Munafiq. After all, they look and sound so impressive, they killed 'Uthman ibn 'Affan ؓ and 'Uthman's blood spread everywhere and even soaked the Mushaf of 'Uthman ؓ.

They, the Munafiqun managed to reach the Khalifah, the most vital man in the Ummah, the one whom we are obliged to protect. They reached him from within the Muslims and that even opened the door of the fitnah that has not stopped even until today.

"In their hearts is a disease (of doubt and hypocrisy) and Allah has increased their disease. A painful torment is theirs because they used to tell lies." {Al-Baqarah 2:10}

"The hypocrites, both men and women, are all alike: they encourage what is evil, forbid what is good, and withhold their hands (i.e. refuse to spend in the way of Allah). They neglected Allah, so He neglected them. Surely the hypocrites are the rebellious." {At-Tawbah 9:67}

"Those who take disbelievers as allies instead of the believers. Do they seek with them honor [through power]? But indeed, honor belongs to Allah entirely." {An-Nisa 4:139}

"There are also those (hypocrites) who set up a mosque (only) to cause harm, promote disbelief, divide the believers, and as a base for those who had previously fought against Allah and His Messenger. They will definitely swear, 'We intended nothing but good,' but Allah bears witness that they are surely liars." {At-Tawbah 9:107}

"(The hypocrites are) those who wait to see what happens to you. So if Allah grants you victory, they say (to you), 'Were we not on your side?' But if the disbelievers have a share (of victory), they say (to them), 'Did we not have the advantage over you, yet we protected you from the believers?' Allah will judge between (all of) you on the Day of Resurrection. And Allah will never grant the disbelievers a way over the believers." {An-Nisa 4:141}

"If a good befalls you, it grieves them, but if some evil overtakes you, they rejoice at it. But if you remain patient and fear Allah, their plot will not harm you at all. Surely Allah is Fully Aware of what they do."

{Aal-Imran 3:120}

"Had they gone forth with you, they would not have increased you except in confusion, and they would have been active among you, seeking (to cause) you fitnah [i.e., chaos and dissension]. And among you are avid listeners to them. And Allah is All-Knowing of the wrongdoers." {At-Tawbah 9:47}

"Those (hypocrites) who remained behind rejoiced in their staying [at home] after [the departure of] the Messenger of Allah and disliked to strive with their wealth and their lives in the cause of Allah and said, 'Do not go forth in the heat.' Say, 'The fire of Hell is more intense in heat' - if they would but understand."{At-Tawbah 9:81}

"Have you seen those (hyprocrites) who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, [O Muhammad], and that which was sent down before you, and they wish to go for judgement (in their disputes) to the Taghut (false judges, False objects of worship or those transgressors who usurp the divine right of government etc.) while they have been ordered to reject them. But Shaitan (Satan) wishes to lead them far astray." {An-Nisa 4:60}

The munafiqun are the real enemy that's why we have to wage Jihad fi Sabilillah against them even before the mushrikun because without the help of the munafiqun the kuffar will never be able to be victorious against the Muslim Mujahidun.